

We claim:

- (1) A contents server distributing digital contents via a network in response to an acquisition request from outside, said contents server comprising:
- 5 a contents storage part for storing a plurality of digital contents wherein a different digital watermark is embedded; and
- 10 an information adding part for, by reading out a plurality of said digital contents from said contents storage part, switching and synthesizing said digital contents for each specific part, adding to said digital contents information specified by a digital watermark being embedded for each part of said digital contents.
- (2) The contents server according to Claim 1, wherein said information adding part dynamically adds said information to said digital contents in response to an acquisition request for predetermined digital contents.
- 15 (3) The contents server according to Claim 1, wherein said information adding part forms a bit row with a digital watermark-embedded for each part of said digital contents and describes said information in said digital contents with said bit row.
- 20 (4) The contents server according to Claim 1, wherein said contents storage part stores said digital contents compressed in a predetermined compression format, and said information adding part for, by synthesizing a plurality of said digital contents based on the codeword sequence offset information regarding said digital contents in accordance with said compression format, adding said information without unpacking said digital contents.
- 25 (5) A contents receiving apparatus for receiving digital contents distributed by a predetermined distributor, said contents receiving apparatus comprising:
- 30 a receiving means for receiving a plurality of digital contents wherein a different digital watermark is embedded; and
- 35 an information adding means for, by switching and synthesizing a plurality of said

digital contents received by said receiving means for each specific part, adding to said digital contents information specified by a digital watermark being embedded for each part of said digital contents.

5 (6) The contents receiving apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said information adding means adds to said digital contents the information designating the self apparatus and the information regarding the time when said digital contents are distributed.

10 (7) The contents receiving apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said information adding means forms a bit row with a digital watermark-embedded for each part of said digital contents and describes said information in said digital contents with said bit row.

15 (8) The contents receiving apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said receiving means receives said digital contents compressed in a predetermined compression format, and said information adding means adds said information without unpacking said digital contents by synthesizing a plurality of said digital contents based on the codeword sequence offset information regarding said digital contents in accordance with said
20 compression format.

 (9) A network system comprising a server distributing digital contents via a network, and a client terminal receiving said distributed digital contents wherein:
 said client terminal transmits an acquisition request for desired digital contents to
25 said server; and

 said server, by switching and synthesizing for each specific part a plurality of digital contents wherein a different watermark is embedded, generates digital contents wherein a predetermined information responding to said acquisition request is
30 embedded and transmits said digital contents to said client terminal.

(10) A network system comprising a server distributing digital contents, and a client terminal receiving distributed digital contents wherein:

35 said server distributes simultaneously a plurality of digital contents wherein a

different digital watermark is embedded;

5 said client terminal adds, by switching and synthesizing said plurality of received digital contents for each specific part, a predetermined information to said digital contents.

(11)A computer comprising:

10 a selector for inputting a plurality of digital contents wherein a different digital watermark is embedded, and for outputting while switching selectively said plurality of digital contents for each specific part; and

15 a control part for controlling said selector based on a predetermined embedment information, said computer generating by a control at said control part, digital contents wherein said embedment information is described with a bit row being formed by said digital watermark-embedded in each of said part of said digital contents.

20 (12)The computer according to Claim 11, wherein said selector inputs a plurality of digital contents where a digital watermark representing the bit information 0 is embedded, and a plurality of digital contents where a digital watermark representing the bit information 1 is embedded, and selects digital contents where a digital watermark corresponding to desired bit information is embedded under a control of said control part.

25 (13)The computer according to Claim 11, wherein said selector inputs to said selector digital contents where a digital watermark representing the bit information 0 is embedded, digital contents where a digital watermark representing the bit information 1 is embedded, and digital contents where a digital watermark is not embedded, and selects said digital contents under a control of said control part whereby a portion containing
30 no bit information is set in said bit row describing said embedment information.

35 (14)The computer according to Claim 11, wherein said selector selectively switches said digital contents, based on the pointer information pointing to a delimiter for said part of said digital contents.

(15) The computer according to Claim 14, wherein said selector inputs said digital contents
compressed in a predetermined compression format, and selectively switches said
digital content, using the codeword sequence offset information regarding said digital
contents in accordance with said compression format as said pointer information.

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(16) A method for adding information to digital contents by using a computer, said method
comprising;

10 a first step of generating a plurality of digital watermark-embedded contents by
embedding a different digital watermark in predetermined digital contents, and of
storing generated digital contents to a predetermined storage device; and

15 a second step of, by reading out from said storage device a plurality of digital contents
where a different digital watermark is embedded and switching and synthesizing said
digital contents for each specific part, adding to said digital contents information
specified by a digital watermark being embedded in each part of said digital contents.

(17) The method for adding information to digital contents according to Claim 16, wherein said
first step comprises compressing said generated digital contents, creating the pointer
20 information pointing to a delimiter position in the part of said compressed digital
contents, and storing it in said storage device, and said second step comprises reading
out said pointer information from said storage device, synthesizing said digital contents
based on said pointer information, and adding said information without unpacking the
digital contents.

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(18) A program for causing a computer to perform the data processing by controlling a
computer, comprising:

30 a first process for reading out predetermined embedment information from a
predetermined storage device; and

35 a second process for acquiring a plurality of digital contents where a different digital
watermark is embedded, selectively switching said plurality of digital contents for a
specific part, based on said embedment information, and generating the digital contents
describing said embedment information, using a bit sequence formed with a digital

watermark-embedded in said part of said digital contents.

- 5 (19) The program according to Claim 18, wherein said second process of said program performed by said computer comprises acquiring a plurality of digital contents where a digital watermark representing the bit information 0 is embedded, and a plurality of digital contents where a digital watermark representing the bit information 1 is embedded, and selecting digital contents where a digital watermark corresponding to appropriate bit information describing said embedment information is embedded.
- 10 (20) The program according to Claim 18, wherein said second process of said program performed by said computer comprises acquiring digital contents where a digital watermark representing the bit information 0 is embedded, digital contents where a digital watermark representing the bit information 1 is embedded, and digital contents where a digital watermark is not embedded, and generating digital contents describing
- 15 said embedment information, using said bit sequence with said digital watermark where a portion containing no bit information is set.
- 20 (21) The program according to Claim 18, wherein said second process of said program performed by said computer comprises acquiring said digital contents compressed in a predetermined compression format, and selecting said digital contents, based on the codeword sequence offset information regarding said digital contents in accordance with said compression format.